REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Kshs 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any for loss, injury, death or damage to property.

POT LUCK OUTINGS

Bird-watching outings held on every third Sunday of the month, *i.e.* **20 February**. Bring a picnic lunch, binoculars, field guides, *etc.* and meet at 9:00 am at the National Museum car park. Those attending decide on the venue - hence "Pot Luck".

TREE WALK

Arboretum guided Tree Walks on the last Monday of every month i.e. **28 February from 9:30 a.m.** Meet at the FONA offices beside the Girl Guides HQ.

ARABUKO SOKOKE (COAST) BIRD WALKS -

The Saturday birdwatch will continue with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association, on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **5 February, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person.

Grey Crested Helmet Shike

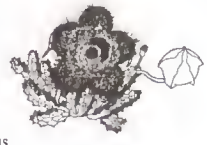
COMMITTEES & PROJECTS

SUCCULENTA

Saturday 19 February, 11:00 a.m.

A visit to Grete and Peter Davey at Athi River, to see their collection of succulents and learn about their permaculture garden. Please bring own picnic lunch, drinks, chair, hat and walking shoes.

How to get to the Daveys home? Take Mombasa Rd. About 1km after turn off to Namanga take turning to left marked Sunrose Nursery and follow Succulenta signs. Daveys is on the left, well before Waridi.



Edithcolea grandis

FRIENDS OF NAIROBI ARBORETUM

Saturday 26 February '00, 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Come and enjoy a day of music, songs and dance from children near and far at the Nairobi Arboretum. Admission free.

Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Nairobi Arboretum AGM, will be held at Nairobi Arboretum on **Saturday 11 March '00 from 11:00 a.m.** Bring a picnic.

PARTNERS

TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION (TBA)

Training Opportunity

Are you an African national holding a first degree in biological sciences? TBA might be offering just the right field research training for you! TBA runs one course in Kenya (23 June-22 July, '00) and two in the Usambara Mts (28 Jul-26 Aug & 2-30 Sept, '00). Applicants are eligible to ONLY one course. For more information or to apply, send letter of interest, a detailed CV and two CONFINDENTIAL academic/professional references to TBA, at Nature Kenya. **Application deadline 20 February 2000.**

The **Nature***Kenya* Newsletter February 2000

Nature net

BRAVE NEW WORLD

We welcome the 21st century on a high note, not to be attributed solely to toa many parties. The passing of the Environment Bill last November and the launch of the Nairobi Arbaretum MasterPlan this January are the exciting achievements we are celebrating. Congratulations to the members, partners and staff who worked so hard, and who, with breathtaking tenacity, prevailed despite the aftentimes difficult circumstances.

Now we look forward to the Canvention on Internatianal Trade in Endangered Species meeting in early April and the Convention on Biological Diversity meeting in mid May, both to be held in Nairobi.

What with all this new verve we need ta act taday, so I encourage you to be quick, whether it is in writing to your local District Development Committee about environmental concerns in your area, by valunteering for the Friends af Nairobi Arboretum (FoNA) or renewing yaur subscriptian. Nature Kenya is here for the long haul and yau give this organisation voice and strength; your cantribution is af greater value than you may think.

In this brave new world, Nature Kenya is having to embrace new ideas and stretching to meet new challenges. Sa while the postage rates go up we need ta try find new innovative ideas to recruit members to spread the costs of supporting membership. The birdwalks and potluck outings continue while we organise ta meet demands for more Saturday and overnight trips. The *EANHS Bulletin* will now alternate with the magazine *Kenya Birds*, while *Nature Net* continues ta keep yau updated.

Whether you simply enjoy receiving the publications, using the library, toking part in the many arganised activities or just supporting this organisatian, Nature Kenya is here for you; it is your means to a better understanding af the natural world and your vehicle far the canservatian af biodiversity. We're laaking farward to a year full af activity - old and new - that make it warthwhile ta be a member and hope you enjay the year 2000 with us.

Catherine Ngarachu, Editor

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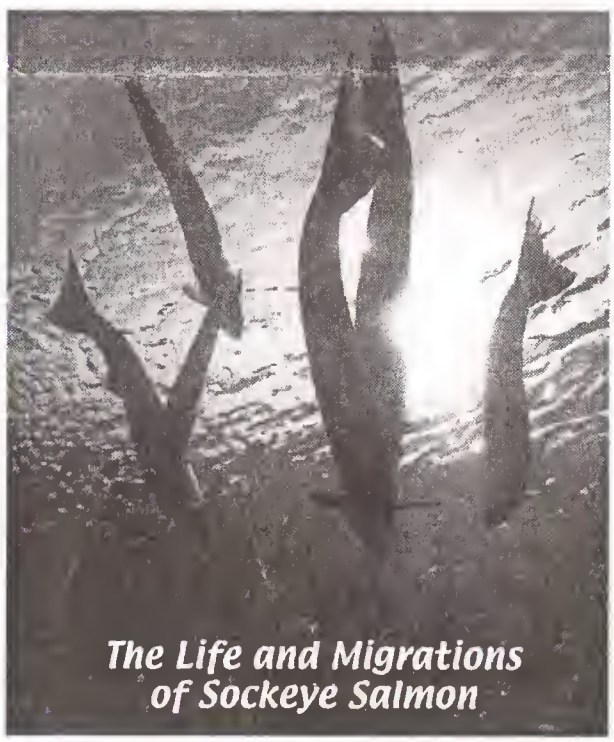
ACTIVITIES

TALK WITH SLIDES

by Rupert Watson

Authar af *'Salmon, Trout & Charr of the World'*



Monday 14 February '00, 5:30 p.m.
at the National Museums of Kenya,
in the Natural Sciences Seminar Room

More great news!

Photograph shows the delivery of Nature Kenya's new Landrover. Bought under the Important Bird Areas programme this vehicle will go a long way in facilitating sites liaison.

Can you suggest a name for it?

NATURALIST'S CORNER

DIADROMOUS FISH

Rupert Watson

Unoppeoling though their description may sound, 'diadromous' fish are characterised by an intriguing ability to migrate between salt and fresh water and live equally successfully in these vastly different conditions.

Diadromous fish either breed in fresh water and feed at sea (anadromous), or breed at sea and then swim up rivers to feed (catadromous). Either way, their systems must be specifically adapted to enable them to survive in both enviranments. In fresh water, fish body fluid are more chemically concentrated than the surrounding water, so large amaunts af excess woter ore absorbed through osmosis. At seo the direction of osmotic flow is reversed, causing fish to lose water, for which they must compensate by swallowing more water and absorbing it through the stomach walls.The best known catadromous fish are eels of the Anguillidae family. Mare than ane species is known to visit Kenya's rivers after spawning in the Indian Ocean, and local catfish fishermen an the Tana river are aften surprised when a large eel takes their bait on its way upstream.

In the tropics fresh waters tend to be richer in food thon ot cooler lotitudes, while for the sea it is the opposite. This may be why there are very few anadramous fish in trapical rivers. In Kenya pipefish and needlefish are thought ta be able to exist in salt and fresh water, but informatian is scarce. However, stretching the definition af 'anadramy' slightly, there are barbel, catfish, and cyprinids which all migrate from Victorio and other lakes, up in-flowing rivers to breed.

Salmon are the most fomous migrants from fresh to sea water. Atlantic salmon, and all six species of Pacific salmon, spown in the gravel of cool northern hemisphere streams, nearly all dying soon after having done so. The young then swim down to sea where they spend up to four years gathering up the ocean's goodness, before returning back to breed where they themselves were hotched. Closely reloted, both brown ond rainbow trout can olso migrote to seo, but only do so in the north of their range, where the sea is cold enough for them - and then only some out of any given population. For the trout in the highlands of Kenya, the water is too warm below about 6000 feet, so they must live out their lives without ever scenting the sea.

Join us on Mondoy 14th Februory at 5:30 p.m. when Rupert Watson will give on illustrated talk on the 'Life and Migrations of Sockeye Salmon', in the National Museums Natural Sciences Seminar Room.

Incorporating more than 80 colour photographs, his book '*Salman, Trout & Charr af the World*' will be on sale @ 3500/-

PARROT-WATCHING EXPEDITION, BRAZIL,

04 - 25 September '00

A 3 week expedition to look for the parrots and some of the 1,715 bird species of Brazil. The mission of this non-profit bird expedition is to explore, research ond enjoy the unique birdlife in Brazil, discovering what the birds - particularly the Parrots - do and why they do it.

The organisers are a group of leisure parrot birders, with the help of Brazilian birders and parrot experts. You are welcome to join our parrot expedition team! *For further informatian and the itinerary cantact Peter H. Them,Emmerich Alle 4,2791 Dragaer,DK-Denmark phn. +45 32 53 40 81 fax. +45 32 32 28 11 e-mail: them@past4.tele.dk*

NOTICES

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

5 FEBRUARY '00

Hosted by Kenya Wetland Working Group and National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi. World Wetlands Day marks the day when the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance entered into force on 2nd Februory 1971 in the Iranian town of Ramsar.

In Nairobi the World Wetlands Day will be celebrated on Saturday 5th February, '00 through a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities whase primary goal is to generate public awareness on the value of and threats to the wetlands of Kenya.

BIRD HOTLINE

African Finfoot/ Fourteen Falls - Jan Mwoki Kioko, Nick Nalianya, Fred Baraza & John Musina

Black and White or Jacobin Cuckoo/ L. Naivasha - Jan. Mwoki Kioko

Giant Kingfisher/ Arabuko-Sokoke Forest - Dec - Jonathan Baya & Kay Heinbatham

FEBRUARY DIARY

Wed 2 Birdwalk

Sat 5 Arabuko Sokoke Walk/ World Wetlands Day

Wed 9 & 16 Birdwalk

Sat 19 Succulenta Outing

Sun 20 PatLuck Bird Outing

Wed 23 Birdwalk

Sat 26 'Wind in the Trees'

Sat 26 - Sun 27 Camping at Malewa

Mon 28 Tree Walk

EXCURSIONS

Journey to the Last Frontier

Off the Beaten Track, Lake Turkana Safari

Tuesday 18/04
Meet at the National Museum car park at 6:30 a.m. to depart for Marich Pass by 7:00 a.m. stopping enroute for tea and lunch . Dinner and overnight at Marich Pass Field Studies Centre (MPFSC).

Wednesday 19/04
Full morning birdwalk after breakfast/ visit local market. Dinner and overnight at MPFSC.

Thursday 20/04
After early breakfast drive from Marich Pass to Kalokol. Lunch at Jade Sea Journey's camp and from there praceed to the beach to embark for the crossing to Central Island National Park. Navigation time around 50 minutes. In the late afternoon, short hike to 'Mambo' Crater Lake for bird and cracadile watching. Dinner and overnight on the Island under the stars on mattresses.

Friday 21/04
After very early tea/caffee, morning hike around the volcano crater rims with a view over the croter lakes inhabited by lesser flamingo and other water birds. Return to camp at about 9:00 a.m. for breakfast. Opportunity to refresh in the water of the Lake while waiting for early lunch After lunch, boat to Koobi Fora. Navigation time around two and a half hours depending on weather. At arrival transfer by Museum vehicles to camp. If time permits, late afternoon walk along beach. Dinner and camping avernight at Kaabi Fara.

Saturday 22/04
After early breakfast drive towards Karari Escarpment stopping for hominid hunting and birdwatching, returning to Koobi Foro for lunch. Afternoon free - swimming in the lake passible if accompanied. Dinner and overnight at Koobi Fora.

Sunday 23/04
After breakfast, cross from Koobi Foro at around 11 a.m., expected arrival time at Kalokol is 1:30 p.m. Picnic lunch on the way. Drive to Marich Pass for overnight.

Monday 24/04
After breakfast depart for Nairobi.

POINTS TO NOTE

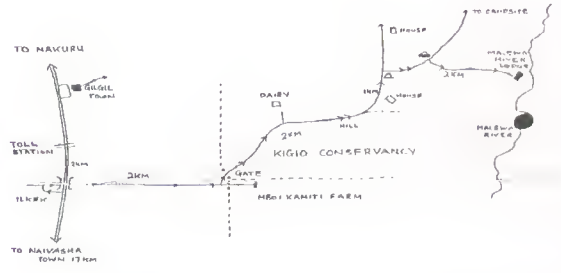
1. Participants need to travel light taking into consideration the very limited boat space and ease of transferring between sites.
2. Although precautions will be taken as to participant's safety, the following should be taken into considerotion: the journey is long by road, there is some insecurity in the area and the boat trips are considerable. For these reasons we will require on signing up that all participants sign a waiver as Nature Kenya will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.
3. As a precaution we advise that those without evacuation insurance should get cover from Flying Doctors.

Camping at Malewa

Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 February '00

The campsite is situated within the Kigia Wildlife Canservancy, an the banks af the Malewa River, between Naivasha and Gilgil.

MAP



Kigia is a farmer dairy and beef ranch af 3500 acres, making it possible far us to have extensive guided birdwalks.
(There are also appartunities far abseiling @ 1000/- per persan and paddle baating @ 2000/- per three persans.)

Facilities include hat shawers. Firewaad is available far caaking.

You will need to bring your own tent, food, cooking utensils and drinking water.

Meet an Saturday 26 February at **6:45 a.m.** at the Natianal Museums car park far 7:00 a.m. departure.
We depart fram Malewa on Sunday 27 February at 2:30 p.m.

Cast per person: 400/- (same for adult and child)
25 members maximum

Book and pay before 15 February '00.

Tentative costs per person: 17,500/- per person
Minivan transport to and from Nairobi per person: 6400/-
Minimum 15 people or trip may be cancelled. Booking deadline 28 February '00.
Except for tea or lunch to and from Nairobi this includes all meals. Drinks being tea, coffee and drinking water.
Per person sharing at MPFSC
Transport by boat on the lake.Transport at Sibiloi N.P. is in three Koobi Foro Londrovers
Supply of mattresses on Central Island. Mattresses and mosquito nets also available at Koobi Fora.
Entry and camping fees for Central Island and Sibiloi National Parks. (Ensure you carry your membership card for free entry to the Museum site)
Public transport available to Kalokol, but likely to take longer.
For the catering and boat trips at Lake Turkana we will be relying on *Jade Sea Journeys* a company which for ten years now has been operating safaris on Lake Turkana.

Not Inclusive
Transport to and from Nairobi
Meals enroute from and to Nairobi.
Soft and strong drinks. (These can be supplied by the JSJ at an extra cost)